

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Applicant would like to thank the Examiner for the careful consideration given the present application. Reconsideration of the subject patent application in view of the present remarks is respectfully requested.

Claim 1 is amended.

Claims 3, 5-8, 10-12, 14-19, and 21 have previously been withdrawn

Claim 20 has previously been cancelled.

New claim 28 is added

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

Claims 1, 2, 4, 9, 13 and 22-27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Shoji et al. (U.S. PG-PUB NO. 2002/0169010; hereinafter “Shoji”) in view of Schober (U.S. PATENT NO. 4,471,493) and further in view of Masaki (U.S. PG-PUB NO. 2003/0050032). For the following reasons, the rejection is respectfully traversed.

Regarding the amended claim 1, none of Shoji, Schober and Masaki, alone or in combination, discloses, teaches or renders foreseeable each connection portion connecting the first casing to the second casing so as to freely rotate through a rotation shaft provided in each of the at least two connection portions and each feeding portion connected to the first antenna element through each of the at least two connection portions including the rotation shaft.

Shoji does not disclose the above feature of claim 1, as admitted by the examiner in the Office action which states that Shoji fails to specifically disclose the connection portion including a rotational shaft.

The Office action states that Schober discloses a rotational shaft provided in the connection portion (connector 18). However, there is no disclosure in Schober that connector 18 is provided in each of the at least two connection portions, because Schober fails to disclose at least two connection portions as admitted by the examiner in the Office action. Also, claim 1 requires a rotation shaft provided in each of the at least two connection portions. In other words, there must be at least two rotation shafts, each being provided in each of the at least two connection portions. As shown in Figs 1 and 2 of Schober, there is only one connector 18 provided in Schober.

The Office action also states that Masaki discloses two connection portions 61 and 62 in fig 7 and further disclosed in paragraph 54. However, Masaki is silent about the use of a rotation shafts provided in each of two connection portions 61 and 62. Since the portions 61 and 62 are coaxial cables as described in paragraph 54 of Masaki, there is no reason to provide a rotational shaft in each of the cables 61 and 62.

Also, the claimed invention requires that each feeding portion is connected via the respective connection portion including the rotation shaft to the first antenna element. That is, the electrical power fed from each feeding portion is supplied through the connection portion including the rotation shaft, which achieves both the mechanical connection and the electrical connection together. The examiner pointed out that Masaki teaches two connection portions 61 and 62. The cables 61, 62 in Masaki, however, are connected through only one hinge part (see Fig. 6). Therefore, Masaki does not teach the above limitation.

Accordingly, the combination of Shoji, Schober and Masaki does not meet all of the limitations of claim 1. Therefore, the asserted combination of Shoji, Schober and Masaki does not render claim 1 obvious. Thus, withdrawal of the rejection as it applies to claim 1 is respectfully requested.

Claims 2, 4, 9, 13 and 22-27 which are directly or indirectly dependent from claim 1 should also be allowable for at least the same reason.

Regarding new claim 28, none of Shoji, Schober and Masaki discloses that the first casing and the first antenna element are mechanically fixed to the first hinge portion, and the second casing, the second hinge portion and each of the at least two feeding portions are respectively mechanically fixed. The Office action states in rejecting claim 23 that Shoji discloses a first hinge portion (connection between flexible cable 9 and antenna 14) and a second hinge portion (connection between flexible cable 9 and transmitting circuit 15). However, Shoji does not disclose that the upper casing 3 (the alleged first casing) and the outer sheath of the shield box 14 (the alleged first antenna) are mechanically fixed to the connection between flexible cable 9 and antenna 14 (the alleged first hinge portion). Also, Shoji does not disclose that the lower casing 4 (the alleged second casing), the connection between flexible cable 9 and transmitting circuit 15 (the alleged second hinge portion) and each of the switching terminals 23a and 23b (the alleged least two feeding portions) are respectively mechanically fixed. Schober and Masaki are silent about the above feature of claim 28, since neither Schober nor Masaki discloses the use of two hinge portions.

In consideration of the foregoing analysis, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in a condition for allowance and notice to that effect is hereby requested. If it is determined that the application is not in a condition for allowance, the examiner is invited to

initiate a telephone interview with the undersigned attorney to expedite prosecution of the present application.

If there are any fees resulting from this communication, please charge same to our Deposit Account No. 16-0820, our Order No.: NGB-37395.

Respectfully submitted,

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